



## NATIONAL INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER

3833 South Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705

9216 NFES (FA240)  
March 17, 2003

### NATIONAL FIRE EQUIPMENT SYSTEM CACHE MEMORANDUM NO. 03-5

To: NFES National Incident Support Caches  
From: Paul Naman, NFES Representative - NIFC  
Subject: Fire Shelter Re-bagging Project Completion Schedule

In 2001, GSA awarded a contract to Freedom Packaging, Inc. for the re-bagging of existing fire shelters (NFES #s 0168 and 0169) with the improved polyvinyl bag. This was part of the fire shelter re-bagging process described in Cache Memorandum Numbers 01-8, 02-1 and 03-2 which applied to all serviceable fire shelters. The contract was extended last year to May 31, 2003. To date, fire shelter re-bagging efforts have been very successful, with over 20,000 fire shelters being processed.

By mutual agreement between the Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC) and the General Services Administration (GSA), the re-bagging contract with Freedom Packaging, Inc. will end on May 31, 2003. A date of May 2, 2003 has been established as the last day GSA will accept requests to re-bag fire shelters with the new polyvinyl bag.

Only fire shelters that meet the standards for issue as described in "Your Fire Shelter, 2001 Edition" are eligible for re-bagging. Fire shelters that do not meet the inspection standards should be discarded and not re-bagged. Weckworth Mfg. has manufactured approximately 62,500 fire shelters which are equipped with the new polyvinyl bags with correct pull tabs. All but 6,000 have been received by GSA and issued to field units. Weckworth manufactured fire shelters with the new polyvinyl bag with correct pull tabs can be visually identified by a red pull strip extending around the end of the polyvinyl bag from one pull ring to the other. They do not require re-bagging provided the pull tabs are intact. Another means of identification is through the following contract and purchase order numbers:

Contract Number	Purchase Order Number(s)
K0054	S-W-DT657-1 and S-W-DU606-1
M0009	S-W-DV531-1
M0053	S-W-DW985-1

Agencies or other organization needing to re-bag their serviceable fire shelters should adhere to the following procedures: Identify the number of fire shelters requiring re-bagging by the NSN. The applicable NSNs are:

Complete Fire Shelter (with liner and case) 4240-01-121-8698 (NFES #0169)

Single Fire Shelter (without liner and case) 4240-01-123-1616 (NFES #0168)

If the number of fire shelters to be re-bagged is small, remove the shelter from the case and liner (do not remove the polyvinyl bag) and record the quantity under the NSN for a Single Fire Shelter. Larger quantities can be left in their cases and liners to expedite shipping to the contractor and should be recorded under the NSN for a Complete Fire Shelter.

Report the number of fire shelters by the NSN to GSA, Ray Balli, GSA Fire Program Coordinator, who will coordinate the re-bagging process and provide shipping instructions. Report numbers by email to: [ramon.balli@gsa.gov](mailto:ramon.balli@gsa.gov) or facsimile (817) 978-3761.

Once approved by GSA, fire shelter owners will be instructed to ship the fire shelters to Freedom Packaging, Inc., 5 Sam Stratton Road, Amsterdam, NY 12010, marked for "Re-bagging". Shipment to the contractor is the only customer expense in this process.

To minimize the possibility of damage during shipment ensure the shipping boxes to be used are rated for the weight of the enclosed load. Fire shelters are heavy, with a quantity of 15 weighing in excess 60 lbs. The total weight of each packed box should be limited to allow for one person to easily lift. Each shipping container should include inside the complete address of the shipping agency, including the name and telephone number of the person who will be the point of contact. This will help ensure that fire shelters are returned to the right customers. It is recommended that mode of shipping selected be one which can be tracked.

Freedom Packaging, Inc. will re-bag fire shelters and then return ship. Small quantities of fire shelters typically take a couple of weeks for processing, and large quantities may take longer. Owners of fire shelters who are already entering into their fire seasons can split shipments to the contractor to meet their operational requirements if time allows. Return freight charges will be at GSA expense.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this information contact Dennis Davis, MTDC, at (406) 329-3929.

/s/ Paul E. Naman

cc:

State Fire Management Officers - BLM  
Regional Directors Fire and Aviation Management - USFS  
Technology Development Centers - San Dimas, Missoula  
Agency Directors - NIFC  
Logistics Center - NICC  
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